



CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

831 Massachusetts Avenue, 2nd Fl., Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Telephone: 617 349 4683 Fax: 617 349 3116 TTY: 617 349 6112

E-mail: histcomm@cambridgema.gov URL: <http://www.cambridgema.gov/Historic>

William B. King, *Chair*, Bruce A. Irving, *Vice Chair*, Charles M. Sullivan, *Executive Director*
Jacob D. Albert, M. Wyllis Bibbins, Robert G. Crocker, Frank Shirley, Jo M. Solet, *Members*
Shary Page Berg, Chandra Harrington, *Alternates*

March 19, 2007

To: Non-Profit Organizations Owning Property in Cambridge

From: Charles Sullivan, Executive Director
Cambridge Historical Commission

Re: Funding Opportunity for Building Rehabilitation

The Cambridge Historical Commission is requesting proposals for Institutional Preservation Grants, which provide funds to qualified non-profit organizations for rehabilitation or restoration of significant Cambridge buildings or structures.

In 2001, Cambridge voters accepted the terms of the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act (CPA) and agreed to establish a Community Preservation Fund to support the “acquisition, creation and preservation” of affordable housing, open space, and historic structures. Since then, 10% of the funds generated through this program have been set aside for historic preservation purposes, which includes the “acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic resources.”

Cambridge’s CPA-funded historic preservation activities have involved restoration of historic public buildings and landscapes and support for the Historical Commission’s Preservation Grant program for affordable housing rehabilitation, which is now in its 30th year. This program helps preserve affordable housing by making grants to qualifying homeowners and to local housing rehabilitation agencies for exterior restoration projects, such as removing artificial siding and restoring original architectural details.

The Commission’s Institutional Preservation Grant (IPG) program, now in its third year, extends the Commission’s Preservation Grant program, but with some significant differences.

- Applicants to the IPG program must be non-profit organizations.
- The building or structure for which assistance is being sought must be significant on the local, state, or national level for its architecture or associations with important persons, organizations, or events. (If the building is not already designated in some way, the CHC can make this determination.)
- The work must constitute rehabilitation or restoration or enhance accessibility, rather than ordinary maintenance.
- Applicants must demonstrate that they have the financial and managerial resources to enable projects to proceed expeditiously to completion.

The maximum Institutional Preservation Grant per project will consist of an outright grant of up to \$50,000, and a further grant of up to 50% of additional documented costs for a maximum disbursement of \$100,000. Amounts over the initial \$50,000 grant must be matched by the applicant.

- Actual grant amounts will be determined by the Commission on the basis of the selection criteria and with regard to the availability of funds, and are likely to be less than the total cost of the work even if the total project cost is less than \$50,000; that is, some matching may be required even for projects costing less than \$50,000.
- Grants will be made on a reimbursement basis and will not be paid until the approved work is completed and documented to the satisfaction of the Commission.
- The Commission may require that the owner enter into a 30-year preservation restriction that will protect the property as though it were designated as a landmark.

If your organization is interested in applying for an Institutional Preservation Grant, please review the attached guidelines and complete the enclosed application, describing the nature of your organization, the building or structure for which the grant is requested, the organization's capital improvement plan, the scope of projects proposed for IPG funding, and the estimated cost.

Grant applications will be reviewed by the Commission staff, which may request additional information, and then presented to the Cambridge Historical Commission for a determination of significance and concurrence on the amount and terms of the proposed grant. (Applications from previous recipients will be considered, but may be assigned a lower priority than new applications.) Once a contract has been signed, recipients will have eighteen months from that date to complete projects and seek reimbursement.

enclosures